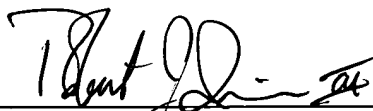


## REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter, and that claims 8, 11, and 13 would be allowable if re-written in independent format. As such, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claims 6 and 8, while claim 10 was amended to incorporate the elements of claim 11, and claim 12 was amended to incorporate the elements of claim 13. Applicants submit that the application is in good and proper form for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, at 312-913-3305.

Respectfully submitted,

McDONNELL BOEHNEN  
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP



By:

Robert J. Irvine III  
Registration No. 41,865

December 16, 2004